



Arthur Academy Charter Schools' Instructional Model

Arthur Academy charter schools are driven by our instructional model. This model is a way of teaching that also defines our charter school option. It is what draws students and is what attracts teachers to work at the schools.

Providing this model is based on the belief that a powerful way of teaching exists that is not being utilized in most schools, and therefore our charter schools offer it as a choice.

This kind of teaching is called Direct Instruction (DI). Direct Instruction is the name of a series of programs for teaching reading, language arts and math in grades k-6 where all learning is very incremental so that students can be successful in mastering everything that is taught as they progress through the programs. It starts with well-designed curriculum materials and follows through with exact plans for how all lessons are presented and communicated.

DI curriculum materials break down all general objectives into very small activities within each lesson. These activities are then very carefully sequenced so that they can be easily learned, mastered and gradually accumulated towards larger objectives. The activities are presented to children in very exacting, interactive ways so that children are motivated and so that they all will learn.

This model is academically focused right from the beginning, in kindergarten. It is based on the belief that academic learning can be highly motivating by itself when taught clearly and systematically. It has been observed that children are excited and gain self-confidence when learning academic skills and knowledge in these programs.

Core Knowledge programs provide the second part of this model. Core Knowledge complements DI by teaching more open ended, inquiry material in subjects of history, geography, science, music, art, and literature through high-interest themes and projects. This kind of content where skills are applied in new areas is increased at each grade level. Together, these two programs provide the best of both approaches to teaching, specifically sequenced instruction and more open-ended discovery instruction. The DI programs provide the skills that can be applied in the more open-ended activities. In turn, Core Knowledge programs help provide general knowledge that strengthen basic skills.